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# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING

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## EDITORIAL COMMENT



### THE CONVENTION AT WASHINGTON

EACH time that it is our privilege to comment upon any large gathering of nurses we find ourselves inclined to say the same thing—"This is the most splendid meeting of nurses that has ever been held." Taking into consideration the charm and beauty of the National Capital, the exquisite weather, the freshness and delicacy of the spring foliage, which in Washington is at least a month in advance of New England and the Lake country, together with the fact that this year the two great national societies met together for the first time since the Buffalo Congress, it can be truthfully said, this *was* the most splendid meeting that has ever been held.

The arrangements for the meetings seemed to be without a flaw, the Hotel Shoreham, the headquarters of both societies, being most conveniently situated. The Superintendents' meetings were held in the Assembly Hall of that hotel and the Federation and Alumnæ meetings in the George Washington University building directly across the street, so there was no time lost in going from place to place.

Notwithstanding the great fascination of the National Capital, with its multitude of interesting places to be visited, the attendance at all the meetings was fine, delegates being in their places promptly and giving untiring attention to the long but interesting sessions.

The arrangement of the programmes was most satisfactory—a long morning session, the afternoon entirely free, and an evening session being the general order of the exercises, giving the members an opportunity to visit the different Government buildings, which close at four o'clock, or to take afternoon excursions to Mt. Vernon, Arlington, and the suburban resorts for which Washington is noted.



A GROUP OF SUPERINTENDENTS

There were but two social events, the first being a reception at the Garfield Memorial Hospital, given by Mrs. Justice Harlan and the ladies of the Hospital Board to the convention members, the other an evening reception at the Shoreham, given by the Graduate Nurses' Association of the District of Columbia to the guests.

Both of these social functions were delightfully arranged and most thoroughly appreciated by those in attendance.

To the older women, the pioneers in organization work, of whom there were an unusual number present, there was much in the meetings that was gratifying that was not included in the programme. The excellence of the papers, showing thought and study, with an ease and grace of delivery, indicated marked intellectual growth, promising much for the future. This was especially noticeable in the younger women coming forward for the first time, particularly when called upon unexpectedly to take part in the discussions, when the value of the drill of the home alumnae became very evident. In looking back over our own experience, it seems but a very short time since we were filled with terror at the sound of our own voice in attempting even to second a motion when under an impulse we were moved to take so bold a step. The lack of self-consciousness on the part of the youngest graduate in mounting the platform and facing an audience of five hundred people is one of the most splendid demonstrations of the effect of training in parliamentary procedure in the local associations.

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### THE SUPERINTENDENTS' MEETINGS

We give in this number of the *JOURNAL* the set of papers, with one exception, with very brief extracts from the discussions, read on Monday and Tuesday, May 1 and 2, at the Superintendents' meetings.

These papers speak for themselves; the discussions as printed in the *JOURNAL* are very much condensed, but will be given more completely when published in the regular report of the proceedings of the society.

Many of the points brought out in these papers and discussions we shall take up for consideration again during the year; they contain a wealth of thought and suggestion which for the present need no comment from us.

The proposed changes in the constitution and by-laws of the Superintendents' Society with the change of name is an important business matter to which members should give their attention. The report is found in this issue of the *JOURNAL*.

With the prospect of possible endowments for educational purposes

it becomes necessary for this society to be incorporated, and the committee was given discretionary powers in the matter.

Miss Banfield, the chairman of the Course in Hospital Economics for the past four years, presented her resignation, which was accepted with regret, and Miss Annie W. Goodrich was appointed to succeed her.

It was reported that there were still a large number of copies of the reports of the Buffalo Congress unsold, and that the price had been reduced to one dollar; also that the Publication Committee had on hand a fair number of the reports of last year, which the new members may obtain from Miss Nutting.

A number of reprints of Miss Samuel's paper on "Economy in Hospital Work" were ordered and can also be obtained by sending to Miss Nutting.

Miss Annie W. Goodrich was elected president of the Superintendents' Society for the coming year, the meeting to be held in New York.

Miss Nevins was elected first vice-president, and the secretary and treasurer were reelected by acclamation from the floor.

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## UNVEILING OF THE MONUMENT TO SPANISH WAR NURSES

THE Spanish-American War Nurses were holding their meetings on the same days as the Superintendents.

On the afternoon of Tuesday the ceremonies of the unveiling of the monument to the women nurses who lost their lives in the Spanish-American War service were held at the National Cemetery at Arlington.

The time of this ceremony unfortunately clashed with the reception which had been previously announced, given by Mrs. Justice Harlan and the ladies of the Board of the Garfield Memorial Hospital, so that the attendance from the Superintendents' Society at the unveiling was not as large as it would otherwise have been.

The design of the monument is exceedingly beautiful, being a simple Maltese cross mounted on a pedestal of granite. It is situated in the new part of the cemetery and is in close proximity to the monument erected to the victims of the Maine and the monument to Admiral Sampson. We have been unable to secure a satisfactory photograph of the monument, as in the views taken during the unveiling the stone is hidden. We are promised later on a clear cut of the cross, which we hope to give in the near future.

## THE FEDERATION MEETING

AFTER the formal opening exercises the president, Miss Nutting, gave an address in which she reviewed the work of the two organizations, and papers were read on "The Effect of State Registration upon Training-Schools," "The Affiliation of Schools for Educational Purposes," and "International Relationships."

The important business action taken at the Federation meeting was the decision that the Federation should resign its membership in the National Council of Women and should become affiliated with the International Council of Nurses.

A simple working constitution and by-laws were adopted and Miss Nutting was reelected president. Every seat in the hall was occupied.

The Federation day papers, with the proceedings of that splendid meeting, will be given space in the next number of the JOURNAL, edited by Miss McIsaac, and the August number will be given up, as usual, to the proceedings of the Associated Alumnae, edited by Miss Riddle and Miss Thornton.

There have been no reprints ordered and members who want extra copies of the JOURNALS containing these reports should send their orders directly to the Philadelphia office.

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THE ASSOCIATED ALUMNAE

For the first time in many years the Associated Alumnae had no constitution and by-laws to consider and was able to give the entire time to the reading and discussion of papers. At both the morning and evening sessions a series of papers were given on District and Visiting Nursing, with Miss Lilian D. Wald, of the Nurses' Settlement, New York City, acting as chairman.

These papers were intensely interesting and practical and the discussions most animated. They will, when published, present a most valuable series for future reference.

Friday, the last day, the papers covered a number of subjects, including "Club-Houses," "The Opportunity of the Nurse in Private Duty," "Army Nursing," "The Logical Outcome of the Foundation of State Societies," "Examining Boards of Nurses and Their Powers."

These subjects were ably presented, and the only regret of the whole meeting was that there was not time for a more prolonged discussion.

Miss Annie Damer, of New York, was elected president, Miss Nellie Casey, of Philadelphia, secretary.

The next meeting of the Associated Alumnae is to be held in Detroit.

## THE ELIGIBLE VOLUNTEER LIST IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY

At both the Superintendents' meeting and the meeting of the Associated Alumnae, Mrs. Kinney, the Superintendent of the Army Nurse Corps, made a strong plea for the enrolment of a list of volunteer nurses who would stand ready to serve their country in time of need or calamity, whether it be war, epidemic, or disaster.

Mrs. Kinney urged that in time of war or calamity it was not possible to give careful investigation to applicants that such service required, referring to the fact that in our late Spanish-American War there were some few women admitted under the stress of war conditions of whom the nursing profession had reason to be ashamed.

This enrolment imposes no obligation upon the nurses, if when the call comes they are not at liberty to go, and requires only that they shall submit certain papers which the Surgeon-General requires of those who are admitted to the Army Nurse Corps, and to report in writing to his office twice a year.

Mrs. Kinney said, very truly, that after the publicity which had been given to this matter in *THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING* and the discussions before the two great national organizations of nurses at this time, in case of any public calamity calling for an increased nursing service the nursing profession would have no right to criticise any methods that might be resorted to or any mistakes that might be made by the Surgeon-General's office.

Miss McIsaac spoke strongly and feelingly on the subject, appealing to the nurses present to take the matter home to their local associations and to see to it that such a volunteer list should be enrolled as would be a credit to the nursing profession.

A number of nurses handed their addresses to Mrs. Kinney, but she finds that a number of visiting cards so received contained only a street address, and she asks that those who have not already received the papers from the Surgeon-General's office will send her their addresses in full.

The discussion on this subject, which brought out some interesting points, will be given in detail when the alumnae report is published.

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## PROGRESS OF STATE REGISTRATION

THE Regents of the University of California held an executive meeting on May 10, at which time there was a discussion upon the obligation recently placed upon the Regents by the State Legislature in regard to the examination and conferring of a degree upon trained nurses.

An Examining Board was formed consisting of Dr. George F. Reinhardt, professor of hygiene at the university, Dr. A. E. Spalding, Miss Genevieve Cook, Miss Elizabeth Ash, and Helen Parker Criswell, D.D.S., who is also a graduate nurse.

It will be remembered that the California nurses, in order to secure registration on any terms, were obliged to place the appointment of the Board of Examiners unconditionally in the hands of the Regents of the University of California, and, taking all circumstances into consideration, the selection of the first board would seem to be exceedingly satisfactory, although we cannot help regretting that all the members should not have been nurses.

#### NEW YORK STATE.

The New York State examinations in practical nursing are to be held at the usual places on June 20. The women who are intending to take this examination need to apply immediately to the Education Department at Albany.

We want to remind New York regular graduates that the terms of the waiver expire in April, 1906, and that there is less than one year in which those so exempted can be registered without taking the full examination.

With many the failure to register has been simply a matter of procrastination, but this will be a poor excuse to offer when the privilege has been lost. The influence of the registration act in New York is being felt already, not only in the State, but all over the country, and no woman who is eligible can afford to be indifferent to a reform which nurses have created and which nurses must carry on. When we consider the bitter opposition to registration which the nurses in a number of States are having to meet, the indifference of many New York women to the privileges so liberally granted by the State Legislature is past our understanding.

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#### IMPORTANT TO CONTRIBUTORS

THE position as editor of the Official Department of this JOURNAL was one of the duties that devolved upon Miss Mary E. Thornton, secretary of the Associated Alumnae when that association instructed a committee to start this JOURNAL with an entirely voluntary staff of editors. As the work of the association and the JOURNAL has grown, the ability of the secretary to carry the increased burden developed until her duties were exceedingly arduous.

The new secretary could not be expected to do this double work, and

hereafter all communications to the Official Department are to be sent direct to the Editor-in-Chief of THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING at Rochester, N. Y. Miss Thornton has given up her apartment in New York and is to spend the summer at "Island View Cottage," Belle-Island-on-the-Sound, Conn.

She carries with her our grateful appreciation of prolonged, patient, and untiring effort for the JOURNAL's success. She has been one of the factors that have aided in the upbuilding of the first independent magazine in America owned, edited, and managed by nurses, and personally and for the directors we make acknowledgments for her uninterrupted gratuitous service to the JOURNAL, covering a period of nearly five years.

